





# Actor Cesar Romero dies

By BOB THOMAS  
Associated Press Writer

SANTA MONICA, Calif. (AP) — Cesar Romero, the actor whose versatility won him roles ranging from a gigolo in *The Thin Man* to the Joker in the *Batman* television series, has died. He was 86.

Romero died Saturday evening from complications related to a blood clot that developed while he battled severe bronchitis and pneumonia, said Gary Miereanu, spokesman for St. John's Hospital and Health Center.

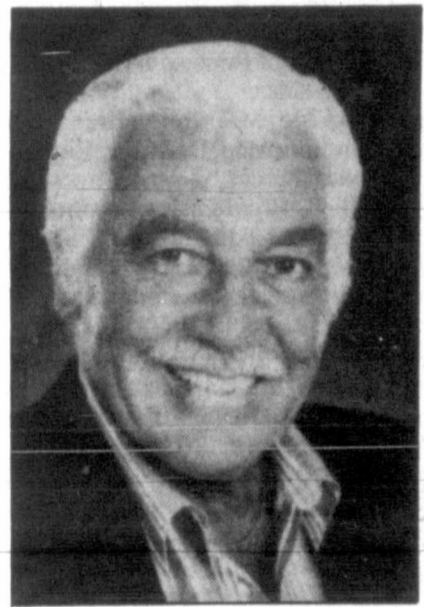
During six decades in Hollywood, Romero was often cast as a gigolo or the other man, but he claimed to have escaped the title of Latin Lover.

"When I started in motion pictures in 1934, they said I was going to be the next Valentino," he recalled in 1984. "I was never a leading man, and very seldom did I do a picture where I got the girl. But I was saddled with the label because I had a Latin name. My background is Cuban, but I'm from New York City. I'm a Latin from Manhattan."

With his striking good looks Romero proved a reliable actor in musicals, comedies, dramas and Westerns. He made his biggest impact with the public as the evil, pun-cracking Joker in the faddish *Batman* series of the 1960s.

Romero remained active into the '90s, appearing in television movies. He marked his 80th birthday as Jane Wyman's husband in the TV series *Falcon Crest*.

"He was just a dream, a very, very gentle man and a very giving person," said Miss Wyman, a friend of Romero's for more than half a century. "He never turned anybody away who asked something of him. He was absolutely remarkable."



Cesar Romero

## Triple murder exposes strange deception

FALLS CITY, Neb. (AP) — Young people in this small Nebraska city took Brandon Teena at face value.

Brandon dressed like a man, talked like a man and dated women. Then they found out that Brandon Teena was really Teena Brandon, a woman.

About two weeks later, Brandon, 21, and two other people were found shot to death in a farmhouse about three miles south of Humboldt, a town of 1,000 in southeastern Nebraska.

Also killed were Lisa Lambert, 23, and Phillip DeVine, 22, of Fairfield, Iowa.

"Brandon had everyone of us fooled," said Kim Gresham, 23, a convenience store clerk who frequently talked to Brandon when she came into the store.

"He was in here all the time with girls, and the girls were hanging all over him," Gresham said.

Two local men, John Lotter, 22, and Marvin Nissen, 21, both of Falls City, were arrested on suspicion of murder.

They were being held in the county jail and arraignment was scheduled for today in Richardson County Court on charges of kidnapping and first-degree sexual assault in an alleged Christmas Day assault on Brandon, said County Attorney Douglas Merz.

Charges related to the three deaths also will be filed, Merz said, but declined to give details.

Authorities were investigating the

Romero was born into a distinguished Cuban family in New York City on Feb. 15, 1907. He was the grandson of Jose Mari, leader of the Cuban revolt against Spanish rule.

The yen to act came when Cesar played four roles in *The Merchant of Venice* at boarding school. But he danced his way onto the professional stage.

"I was a helluva good dancer," he said in a 1984 interview. "It was the only way I knew how to get into show business."

Romero danced in Broadway shows and began acting in plays. He was appearing in *Dinner at Eight* when MGM signed him to a contract and cast him as a gigolo in *The Thin Man*, which starred William Powell and Myrna Loy. After a loanout to Warner Bros. for *Special Agent*, MGM canceled his contract.

Universal signed him for three years and cast him in *The Good Fairy*, *Hold 'em Yale*, *Diamond Jim* and other films. Darryl Zanuck, who had newly formed Twentieth Century, borrowed the actor for *Clive of India*, *Cardinal Richelieu* and other films. When Universal declined to raise his salary, Romero signed with Zanuck, who had merged his company with Fox.

Romero remained at 20th Century Fox for 15 years, often making five or six movies a year. He appeared with Shirley Temple in *Wee Willie Winkie* and *The Little Princess*, with Sonja Henie in *Happy Landing* and *Wintertime*. He was a regular in musicals: *The Great American Broadcast*, *Weekend in Havana*, *Springtime in the Rockies*, *Coney Island*, *Orchestra Wives*, *Carnival in Costa Rica*.

He appeared as Cortez in *Captain from Castile* and portrayed the Cisco Kid in several of the light adventure films.

After leaving Fox, Romero kept busy in such films as *The Lost Continent*, *Vera Cruz* and *Around the World in 80 Days*.

When the film and television roles didn't come, he played dinner theaters and regional stage.

Romero never married. He explained in 1984: "How could I, when I had so many responsibilities? Could I tell a girl: 'Let's get married and you can come and live with my father, my mother, two sisters, a niece and a nephew'? I have no regrets, no regrets."

Romero is survived by a brother, Eduardo; three nieces, a nephew and three great nephews.

Funeral services will be private, Miereanu said. Donations may be made in Romero's name to the Arthritis Foundation.

## Popular place



Getting a table at the Coney Island Cafe usually requires a bit of a wait during the lunch time rush during an ordinary week. But with school children out on break and with college students and families coming back to their former homes in Pampa for the holidays, the hunt for a table at the popular Pampa cafe often requires even more of a wait, as this crowd standing at the front of the establishment learned late last week. (Pampa News photo by Darlene Holmes)

## Operators bet on approval of riverboat gambling

SOUTH PADRE ISLAND (AP) — It may be a long shot, but supporters of organized gambling are wagering that the Texas Legislature will approve riverboat casino gambling.

A bill to legalize riverboat gambling in Texas never made it out of committee during the 1993 Legislature. Although the Legislature doesn't convene until early 1995, several casino companies already are analyzing the possibilities in the Port Isabel-South Padre Island area.

Bob Cornelison, director of the Port Isabel-San Benito Navigation District, said casino company representatives have visited the area and a consulting firm is doing a study on the Laguna Madre area for gaming operators.

James Lewis, an operator of casinos in Colorado, said he wants to construct a \$60 million casino in Port Isabel.

"Convinced that gambling will pass in 1995, Lewis said his company will have invested \$500,000 in land, studies and permits by the time the Legislature convenes.

Casino operators have even asked about buying land near the First National Bank of South Padre Island, said the bank's president, Bill Thornton.

"They seemed to feel awfully confident that either dockside or riverboat gambling will pass in '95," Thornton said. "They're wanting to take options on places now because there's only so many spots."

Seven Circle Resorts, a Swiss-based company with casino operations in Colorado, took out a \$6,000, two-year lease on 2 acres of land at the Port Isabel Turning Basin before the state Legislature met in 1993.

The company has an option to lease another 15 acres if gambling

is approved in Texas.

Local officials say casino companies are looking at sites at the Sea Ranch Marina on South Padre Island, the former Queens Point Marina in Port Isabel and the Port Isabel Turning Basin.

"Every major gaming company I can think of off the top of my head is in Texas right now scoping out the different sites (and the legislative environment and just getting prepared," said James Lee, president of the Texas Riverboat Association.

Two companies have publicly announced plans. Harrah's says an \$80 million casino would be built in Kemah, while Hollywood Casino Corp. is interested in a dockside casino in Seabrook. Both cities are located near Houston.

Hollywood Casino says the boat would generate \$7 million annually for the area and employ 2,000 people.

## Suspect charged in Houston restaurant murder

HOUSTON (AP) — A former prison inmate charged in a robbery spree that ended in murder at a Bennigan's restaurant has been fingered in a brutal home invasion in December.

Charles Harold, who also uses the name Charles Harold Hughes, was charged Saturday after surrendering to police in Thursday's aggravated robbery and capital murder of Elizabeth Parham Matthews, 37. Her husband, Kenzie Matthews, 41, was still recovering today after also being shot in that attack.

On Sunday, Harold was charged with another aggravated robbery charge in a Dec. 19 break-in in neighboring Brazoria County. At least four men stormed the home of 36-year-old Stephanie Palmer, who was shot in the face with a 12-gauge shotgun as her family watched helplessly. She was in fair condition at Hermann Hospital on Sunday.

He remained held without bond today at the Harris County Jail.

Mrs. Matthews died en route to the hospital. Matthews, who was in stable condition at Ben Taub Hospital Sunday, helped identify Harold in a police lineup, homicide Sgt. Fred Carroll said.

Harold was also charged Saturday with aggravated robbery in connection with a robbery at a nearby car dealership that occurred just minutes before the Bennigan's

shooting. No one was hurt in that incident.

"The guy's so crazy," Carroll said. "He walks into this busy restaurant at noontime when he could have got them in the parking lot. It's like he wanted people to see him."

Harold had just returned to the Houston area. He was released from the state prison system in November after serving a sentence for aggravated robbery in Fort Bend County, said Robert Hurst, a Houston police spokesman.

The robber left his car running and the driver's door open when he went into the restaurant and pretended to use a pay phone, Carroll said.

When Matthews came into the southwest Houston restaurant for lunch, the robber pointed a gun and demanded Matthews' watch, Carroll said. Matthews fumbled with the watch band and remarked that the timepiece was not gold, just gold-plated. The gunman, irritated by the delay, shot Matthews in the stomach.

The robber then grabbed for Mrs. Matthews' purse, and "she hesitated a little bit, so he shot her," Carroll said. "He wasn't hyper. He wasn't excited. He knew what he was doing."

The gunman fled, but a patron of the restaurant saw the car he was driving. Police traced the vehicle to a woman who had lent it to a man, who in turn had lent it to Harold, Carroll said.

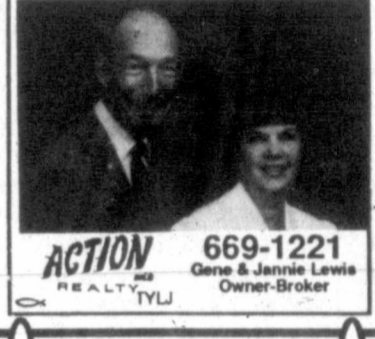
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# The Pampa News

## NEA Crossword Puzzle

**ACROSS**

1 Pinching  
5 Indian Ocean ship  
12 Swimmer  
13 Part in play  
14 Tending to arouse feelings  
15 Halted  
17 Future bks.  
18 Breakfast item  
20 Dutch town  
21 1944 invasion date  
23 Native of (suff.)  
24 — Mawr  
25 3, Roman  
26 Sportscaster Howard  
28 Population count  
30 Southeast wind  
34 Parades  
35 Cooked cereal

**DOWN**

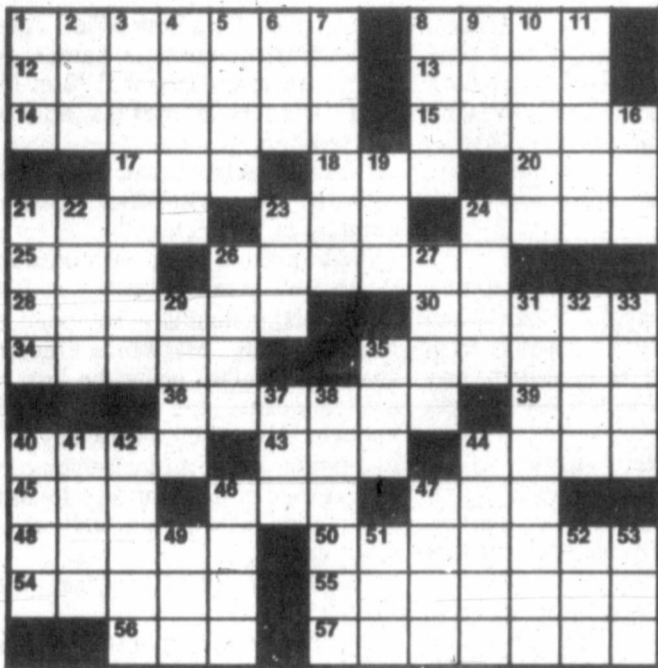
1 Compass pt.  
2 I think, therefore —  
3 — poisoning  
4 Easy victim  
5 How sweet

36 Lee Harvey —  
39 Metal fastener  
40 Mute  
43 Energy unit (abbr.)  
44 Partner  
45 Entertainer — Sumac  
46 Spoil  
47 Neighbor of Fr.  
48 Heavy wood  
50 Glee  
54 More painful  
55 Saw-toothed  
56 Call — day  
57 Ontario capital

**Answer to Previous Puzzle**

KYLE	KALE	TKO
EVAN	EVOE	OHO
PETE	YANNIGAN	
ISHMAEL	DONA	
IND	TWO	
ALIEN	USELESS	
KANS	FRAT	TOO
IDE	SEAR	KARL
NEEDFUL	ARTIE	
DOD	TOY	
LAVA	IRKSOME	
ABEVANCE	TBAR	
TAT	KEEN	LENA
ESS	CORD	EYES

16 Lair  
19 — whiz!  
21 Gambling cubes  
22 Expired  
23 Greek island  
24 Make unclear  
26 Swear  
27 Conduct  
29 Stuck-up person  
31 Of river banks  
32 Single item  
33 Rational  
35 Winter ailment  
37 Basketball league (abbr.)  
38 Not moving (2 wds.)  
40 Changes color of  
41 Center of shield  
42 New Zealand native  
44 French subway  
46 — Breckinridge  
47 Actress Teri —  
49 Mesh  
51 Zodiac sign  
52 Baseball player Mel —  
53 Recent (pref.)



### WALNUT COVE



### ARLO & JANIS



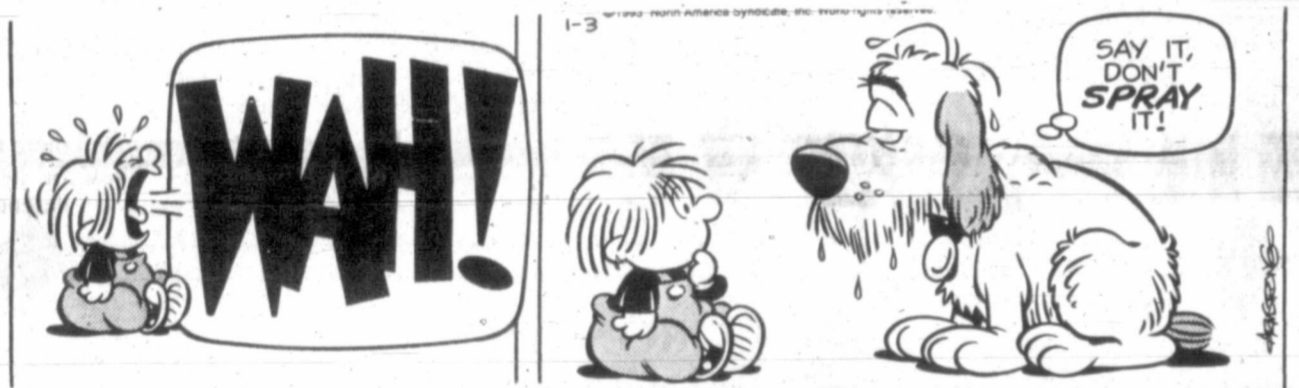
### ECK & MEEK



### B.C.



### MARVIN



### ALLEY OOP



### BEATTIE BLVD.



### THE FAMILY CIRCUS



### THE BORN LOSER



### PEANUTS



### MARMADUKE



### KIT N' CARLYLE



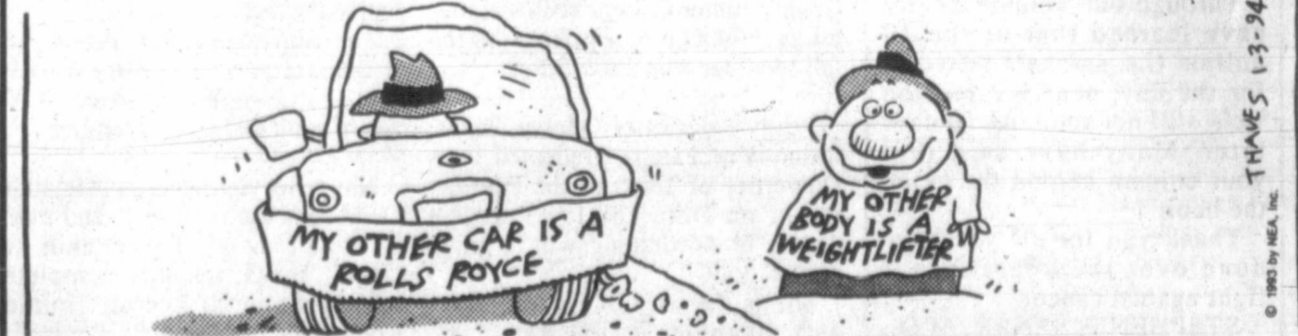
### WINTHROP



### CALVIN AND HOBBS



### FRANK AND ERNEST



### GARFIELD



**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)** Unduly emphasizing your own self-interests will turn off persons with whom you'll have to deal today. It will also greatly lessen your chances of getting what you want. Know where to look for romance and you'll find it. The Astro-Graph Matchmaker instantly reveals which signs are romantically perfect for you. Mail \$2 and a long, self-addressed, stamped envelope to Matchmaker, c/o this newspaper, P.O. Box 4465, New York, N.Y. 10163.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19)** Guard against a tendency today to make snap judgments before you have all the facts. Your quick conclusions could turn out to be quick confusions and get you in quick trouble.

**PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20)** This is not a good day to either make loans or to borrow from friends. Discipline will be required in each situation, but it might not be operative in your case today.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19)** Your behavior will be closely scrutinized today by your peers, opponents and supporters. It could be extremely hard for you to please everyone, and chances are you won't.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20)** Even though you might feel your ideas and ways of doing things are superior to others, keep your thoughts to yourself today, because you're not apt to represent the majority.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20)** Be extremely cautious in business or investment situations today. Don't buy anything or obligate yourself if you feel there is something more of which you should be apprised.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22)** This is one of those days where you might feel everyone is out of step but you. Unfortunately, the reverse may be true and it could be you who is out of sync with the majority.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)** You might need the assistance of others today to lighten your share of responsibilities. Your chances for getting them to drop what they're doing and work on your problems is extremely slim.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)** Usually you're rather good at managing your own resources, as well as the resources of others. Today, however, your talents might not be up to par in either venue.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)** To be on the safe side today, it might be wise to skirt issues on which you and your mate hold strong opposing views. It won't take much to light either one's fuse.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22)** If your attitude is negative today, it will be reflected in the results of everything you do, even in assignments you're capable of performing by rote.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21)** You're entitled to have fun and enjoy yourself today, provided you don't overindulge or spend too lavishly on your pleasures. Both arrangements carry heavy penalties.











Dixy Lee Ray talks with workers at her campaign headquarters where she was sworn in as Washington's first woman governor in 1976. (AP file photo)

## Washington state's only woman governor, Dixy Lee Ray, dies

SEATTLE (AP) — Dixy Lee Ray, an outspoken advocate of nuclear power and Washington state's only woman governor, died at her home on Fox Island. She was 79.

Ray, who died Sunday, had suffered from a severe bronchial condition for several months, said KIRO-TV commentator Lou Guzzo, a longtime friend.

An avid supporter of the nuclear industry, Ray was head of the Atomic Energy Commission from 1973 until 1975. She was governor from 1977 to 1981.

She issued her latest no-nonsense commentary on nuclear issues Thursday, when she dismissed media reports about past federal radiation experiments as alarmist.

"Everybody is exposed to radiation. ... A little bit more or a little bit less is of no consequence," Ray said in a telephone interview with The Associated Press.

She had no patience for environmentalists she considered too strident. She and Guzzo, who was Ray's policy adviser when she was governor, co-authored two books on the subject, *Trashing the Planet* in 1990 and *Environmental Overkill* in 1993.

President Nixon appointed her to the AEC in 1972. When the AEC was phased out, she was named assistant secretary of state, overseeing the Bureau of Oceans, International Environment and Scientific Affairs.

Ray returned to Washington state in 1975, complaining that former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger had given her the cold shoulder.

Her straightforward political style frequently ruffled feathers. When she succeeded Gov. Dan Evans and dismissed virtually his entire administration she also dismissed the outcry that followed.

"No one owns a job," Ray said. But her candor was considered refreshing by many, and her fiscally conservative approach to government had supporters. A Boeing Co. lobbyist called her "the best friend business ever had."

A short, chunky woman with cropped hair and tailored clothes, Ray was born Sept. 3, 1914, in Tacoma. Christened Margaret, she was called Dick as a child — short for "that little Dickens." She renamed herself after a favorite region and a Civil War general.

At 12, she became the youngest girl to climb Mount Rainier, Washington's highest peak.

Ray never married. She considered herself too ugly for romance, Guzzo said.

She earned her undergraduate degree at Mills College and a doctorate in zoology at Stanford. Before entering public life, she was an associate professor of zoology at the University of Washington for 27 years and director of the Pacific Science Center for nine years.

## Five die in plane crash near Houston

PEARLAND (AP) — Five people, including a 5-year-old boy, have died following the collision of two planes near the airport in this city about 15 miles southeast of Houston.

Department of Public Safety officials in Texas City said that a Cessna 172 approaching Clover Field from the north collided above the tree line with a Mini-Cab Hawk, a home-built two-passenger plane Sunday.

"Apparently one didn't know the other was there and (they) started landing on top of the other," said David Smith, Pearland's emergency management coordinator. "They stayed entangled all the way until they hit the ground."

The boy survived the crash and was taken by helicopter to Hermann Hospital trauma unit in Houston. DPS officials confirmed that he died shortly after 7 p.m., about two hours following the accident.

"I saw the planes hit, and they twisted and came down," said Kari Rangel, 26, who had been standing

in her yard. "There was no explosion, but there was a loud crash. They hit at the nose area, but I don't think they did see each other."

In the Cessna were Richard Edward Lansing, 36, and Matt Hines, whose age or hometown was not available, and the boy whose name was not released, said the DPS. Two brothers were in the mini-cab, Philip John Jenkins, 39, of Pearland and Roger David Jenkins, 37, of Santa Ana, Calif.

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## Clinton starts year with meeting on health care reform

By NANCY BENAC  
 Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Back home after a winter gab-and-golf getaway, President Clinton is plotting domestic strategy for the new year and prepping for a trip abroad to the NATO summit and a Moscow meeting with Boris Yeltsin.

First up on Clinton's agenda: a morning meeting with his revamped health-care reform team, mobilizing to push the president's plan through an increasingly divided Congress.

Later in the day, the White House was bringing together officials from four federal agencies to coordinate the government's release of information about Cold War-era radiations tests on humans, some conducted without their consent. Summoned to the meeting were officials from the departments of Defense, Energy, Veterans Affairs and NASA.

Clinton said administration officials need to "sit down and decide what to do next" to ensure swift and smooth release of information about the tests. But he said he was unlikely to attend the session because "I'm going to have a whole series of meetings about my trip."

George Stephanopoulos, a senior adviser to the president, said the administration will look at the possibility of compensation for the people who were tested.

"If these people were tested against their will, if they were injected with plutonium against their will, certainly something must be done to right that," he said Sunday on ABC's "This Week With David Brinkley."

And, White House press secretary Dee Dee Myers said today. "We will have to take a look at compensation."

The president leaves Saturday for a 10-day, five-nation trip that will take him from the NATO summit in Brussels, Belgium, to a meeting with Syrian President Hafez Assad in Geneva, Switzerland, where the two leaders will discuss prospects for peace negotiations between Syria and Israel.

In between, Clinton has stops in the Czech Republic, Russia and Belarus.

In Moscow, Clinton meets with Yeltsin on ways that the United States can help advance Russian reform programs. Clinton plans to lay out his major themes for the trip in a speech Thursday in Milwaukee.

Back home, the president is grappling with a whole series of domestic issues carried over from 1993, including health-care reform, changes in the welfare system and anti-crime legislation.

Over the weekend, Clinton renewed his call for a guarantee of health-care coverage for all Americans, but Senate Minority Leader Bob Dole of

Kansas said none of the plans pending in Congress has enough support to become law.

"Four months from now ... I think we'll be talking about an entirely different package," Dole said.

Queued up behind health-care reform is Clinton's effort to revamp the welfare system to move people more quickly into jobs. Also pending is anti-crime legislation: Clinton is pushing Congress to work out differences between House- and Senate-passed bills to put more police on the streets and toughen sentencing provisions.

The president also returned to Washington in the face of ongoing questions about his relation to a failed Arkansas savings and loan and its head, a former friend, political ally and business partner of the first couple.

Dole called Sunday for appointment of an independent counsel to investigate Clinton's possible links to the Madison Guaranty Savings and Loan Association, which was headed by James McDougal.

Federal investigators are looking into whether any funds from the thrift were illegally diverted to the Whitewater real estate venture half owned by the Clintons. The White House has turned relevant files over to the Justice Department.

"I think the Whitewater matter is going to be a big problem for the president," Dole said on NBC's *Meet the Press*.

## Latest Bosnian-Croatian talks scheduled to begin Tuesday

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP) — Shelling of a western Sarajevo neighborhood today abruptly ended a brief respite from weeks of heavy bombardment. Two children were reported killed and several wounded.

Belma Dzele, 7, sat in her father's lap at Sarajevo's main hospital scared and crying, her left foot wounded.

"Don't worry now, see all these men are here to help you," her father said.

At least two children were killed in the bombardment, according to a driver who took them to the morgue. The shells hit in the western neighborhood of Otoka.

Sarajevo had been uncharacteristically quiet overnight after weeks of fairly consistent shelling. U.N. officials said fighting had died down in much of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

"We have the impression, today at least and the two last days, that it has been very quiet in the total of Bosnia-Herzegovina except Sarajevo, where there is still tension," said U.N. peacekeepers' spokesman Maj. Idesbald van Biesbroeck.

During the day Sunday, U.N. monitors recorded 333 incoming shells and 33 outgoing in Sarajevo. Two people were killed and seven wounded, van Biesbroeck said.

Mostar, a city in southwestern Bosnia-Herzegovina that is divided between Muslims and Croats, also was "still not very quiet," he said.

The area around Busovaca and Dubravica in central Bosnia, heavily contested between Muslim-led gov-

ernment troops and Croat militias, was the site of small arms and mortar fire.

Croatian radio reported 10 people were wounded Sunday in what it claimed was a government offensive on Busovaca. It said most of the wounded were women returning home from church.

Bosnian Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic said he would hold talks Tuesday in Vienna with Croatian Foreign Minister Mate Granic. The meeting, apparently intended to end Muslim-Croat fighting in central Bosnia, comes ahead of new peace talks in Geneva Jan. 18.

Croatia has urged the world community to put pressure on the Bosnian government following the most recent battles in central Bosnia in which government forces appear to

have made some gains.

The Croats in Bosnia were allied with government forces at the outset of the war nearly 21 months ago. But they are now fighting bitterly over territory, primarily in central Bosnia, which is not controlled by Serbs.

Serbs have captured about 70 percent of Bosnia since the war began in April 1992 with a Serb-rebellion against a Muslim-Croat vote to secede from Serb-dominated Yugoslavia.

Pre-Christmas peace talks broke up after the Muslim-led government rejected a Serb-Croat land offer as insufficient for a viable Muslim state.

The European Union is pressing for Serbs and Croats to cede enough land to the government to give it control of about one-third of Bosnia — double what it now controls.

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